Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.   (Currently Amended) A cash control system for a business establishment having one or more cash registers, the cash control system comprising:

a safe assembly including a safe ~~for securing~~ adapted to secure cash and a currency reader coupled to the safe ~~for determining the~~ and programmed to determine an amount of cash received in the safe;

a memory in which a control software is stored, the control software ~~for updating~~ programmed to update a pair of identifiers that distinguish deposit information accumulated only during an accounting period before a predetermined event and deposit information accumulated during an accounting period that includes a period after the predetermined event, wherein ~~values for~~ the pair of identifiers do not contain ~~include~~ values ~~unrelated to~~ including a date and/or a time of the predetermined event;

a central control unit which receives deposit information from the safe assembly and generates and transmits deposit reports, the central control unit~~, using~~ uses the control software to update and transmit~~, updates and transmits~~ the pair of identifiers, wherein the central control unit~~, using~~ uses the control software~~, indicates~~ to indicate whether the deposit

information was accumulated only during the accounting period before the predetermined event or during the accounting period that includes a period after the predetermined event by making the identifiers to be different from one another or to be identical to each other; and

a cash information server configured to receive the deposit information and identifiers from the central control unit and to identify the amount of cash collected by the business establishment during the accounting period.

2.   (Original) The cash control system of claim 1 further comprising a printer with a bar code generator coupled to the central control unit.

3.   (Original) The cash control system of claim 1 further comprising a MICR line reader coupled to the central control unit to read MICR line information, the central control unit configured to transmit the MICR line information to the cash information server.

4.   (Currently Amended) The cash control system of claim 1 further comprising at least one additional safe assembly including a second safe ~~for securing~~ adapted to secure cash and a currency reader coupled to the second safe ~~for determining the~~ adapted to determine a second amount of cash received in the second safe and wherein the central control unit is configured to receive deposit information from the additional safe assembly and transmit deposit reports to the cash information server

containing deposit information received from the additional safe assembly.

5.   (Original) The cash control system of claim 1 wherein the safe is associated with a unique number which is included in the deposit reports transmitted by the central control unit.

6.   (Original) The cash control system of claim 5 wherein the central control unit is configured to identify when the safe is opened and the cash stored in the safe is removed.

7.   (Currently Amended) The cash control system of claim 6 wherein the identifiers are a sequence number and an alternate sequence number, wherein the central control unit is configured to adjust at least one of the sequence number and the alternate sequence number based on removal of the cash being removed from the safe.

8.   (Original) The cash control system of claim 7 wherein the accounting period is a business day as identified by a store manager.

9.   (Currently Amended) The cash control system of claim 8, wherein the predetermined event is the opening of the safe and the cash stored in the safe removed and wherein the central control unit is configured to change one of the sequence number and the alternate sequence number at the time cash is removed from the safe and to change the other of the sequence number and

the alternate sequence number at [[the]] <u>an</u> end of the business day.

10. (Currently Amended) The cash control system of claim 9 wherein the central control unit is configured to transmit a first deposit report that identifies deposit information for the business day up to the time of removal of cash from the safe and wherein the sequence number and <u>the</u> alternate sequence number are different on the first deposit report and wherein the central control unit is configured to transmit a second deposit report that identifies deposit information for the business day starting from removal of cash from the safe and wherein the sequence number and the alternate sequence number are the same on the second deposit report.

Claims 11 - 16 (Canceled).

17. (Currently Amended) A cash control system for a business establishment having one or more cash registers, the cash control system comprising:

a safe assembly ~~for collecting~~ <u>adapted to collect</u> cash, and ~~for determining~~ <u>to determine</u> deposit information based on the cash collected at the business establishment;

a memory in which a control software is stored, the control software ~~being used for updating~~ <u>programmed to update</u> a sequence number and an alternate sequence number such that the sequence number and the alternate sequence number are successively the same as or different from each other, wherein

-5-

the sequence number and the alternate sequence number ~~are~~ ~~unrelated to~~ <u>do not contain</u> any date and/or time information;

a central control unit which receives the deposit information from the safe assembly, generates a deposit report concerning the deposit information, updates, using the control software, the sequence number and the alternate sequence number, and transmits the deposit report, the sequence number and the alternate sequence number, wherein the central control unit updates the alternate sequence number upon an occurrence of an armored car pickup; and

a cash information server which receives the deposit information, the sequence number and the alternate sequence number from the central control unit, and identifies [[the]] <u>an</u> amount of cash collected at the business establishment before and after the armored car pickup using the deposit information, the sequence number and the alternate sequence number.

18. (Previously Presented) The cash control system of claim 17, wherein the central control unit updates the sequence number at an end of a business day on which the armored car pickup occurred to match the alternate sequence number.

19. (Previously Presented) The cash control system of claim 18, wherein the alternate sequence number is incremented upon the occurrence of the armored car pickup, and the sequence number is incremented at the end of the business day on which the armored car pickup occurred to match the incremented alternate sequence number.

20. (Previously Presented) The cash control system of claim 17, wherein the system generates a print-out that includes the deposit information, a store number, the sequence number and the alternate sequence number after the occurrence of the armored car pickup.

Claims 21 - 24 (Canceled).

25. (Previously Presented) The cash control system of claim 1, wherein the pair of identifiers distinguish deposit information accumulated only during the accounting period before the predetermined event and deposit information accumulated only during the accounting period after the predetermined event.

26. (Previously Presented) The cash control system of claim 1, further comprising a transmitter for transmitting the pair of identifiers.